



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Ann Christian, APR  
504.232.6361**

**[Christian39@cox.net](mailto:Christian39@cox.net)**

## **ARC OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS' LOUISIANA GREEN CORPS RECEIVES \$100,000 GRANT**

*Funds will be used for Young Adults Program*

**New Orleans, LA** – Thanks to a three million donation from the Walmart Foundation to The Arc of the United States (The Arc), 45 local chapters of Arc will receive grants to continue support of a new initiative designed to help youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

These Sub-Grants are being awarded as part of the Walmart Foundation School-to-Community Transition Project. The project aims to increase transition outcomes and to build inclusion and involvement of youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities in independent living, employment, post-secondary education or vocational training, and community, social and civic affairs.

**ArcGNO's LA Green Corps** recently received \$100,000 from this initiative to continue working with in school and out of school youth with intellectual disabilities. Youth participants will undergo Life Skills training (whereby learning self care and independent living); Work adjustment and readiness training; and will receive certifications in technical curriculums (alongside peers without disabilities). Participants not attending school will be enrolled in Adult Education enrichment classes.

Louisiana Green Corps Program Director, Suzy Mason, says of the award, "We are grateful to Walmart and The Arc of the United States for their support. We are excited to continue our work to promote the full inclusion of individuals with intellectual disabilities in the National Service movement. Our participants will not only be learning job skills, life skills, and improving their literacy and numeracy skills, but will also gain insight into community service and responsible environmental stewardship."

The purpose of the Louisiana Green Corps (LA Green Corps) program is to provide green job skills training to unemployed, underemployed, low income, or otherwise disadvantaged youth through the completion of environmental restoration projects. LA

Green Corps is an inclusive AmeriCorps program, encouraging youth with intellectual disabilities to learn and serve alongside their peers without disabilities in the green building trades industries. For more information visit [www.lagreencorps.org](http://www.lagreencorps.org).

“The Walmart Foundation is committed to improving the lives of people with disabilities and ensuring they have opportunities to live better,” said Margaret McKenna, president of the Walmart Foundation. “Our recent grant to The Arc reinforces our commitment by supporting programs of The Arc across America.”

The Arc of the United States (The Arc) promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and related developmental disabilities, from any of hundreds of specific syndromes and neurological conditions throughout their lifetimes. Together with our network of 730 state and local chapters as well as our individual members, we support their full inclusion and participation in their communities and influence public policy. For more information, please visit [www.thearc.org](http://www.thearc.org). The mission of Arc of Greater New Orleans (Arc of GNO) is to secure for all individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities the opportunity to develop, function, and live to their fullest potential. For more information visit [www.arcgno.org](http://www.arcgno.org). Arc of GNO is proud to be a United Way Partner Agency.